

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 341

October 26, 1999, 10:02 a.m.
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OMNIBUS TRADE BILL/Cloture, motion to proceed

SUBJECT: African Growth and Opportunity Act . . . H.R. 434. Lott motion to close debate on the motion to proceed.

ACTION: CLOTURE MOTION AGREED TO, 90-8

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, H.R. 434, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, will expand trade with the 48 Sub-Saharan African (SSA) nations by making qualifying SSA nations eligible for enhanced benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, by giving qualifying SSA nations duty-free and quota-free access to the United States for certain apparel products, by creating a Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum between the United States and SSA countries, and by directing the President to begin plans for implementing a United States-SSA free trade area.

On October 22, 1999, Senator Lott sent to the desk, for himself and others, a motion to close debate on the motion to proceed to the bill.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote is required to invoke cloture.

The intended manager's substitute amendment would enact the Trade and Development Act. The substitute: would include provisions similar to the House provisions to expand trade with SSA countries; would reauthorize the expired GSP program, which grants the President the authority to provide duty-free treatment to imports of eligible articles from designated countries; would reauthorize the expired Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs, which provide assistance to workers adversely affected by import competition; and would enact the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement Act, which would expand the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) by providing additional tariff preferences on a number of products not previously covered.

Those favoring the motion to invoke cloture contended:

This bill is supported by members on both sides of the aisle and is one for which many countries are waiting because of the great support it will provide them. There is a managers' substitute amendment waiting to be offered to this bill once we are finally on it

(See other side)

YEAS (90)				NAYS (8)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (47 or 89%)		Democrats (43 or 96%)		Republicans (6 or 11%)	Democrats (2 or 4%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Kerrey	Bunning	Byrd	McCain- ²	
Allard	Hutchison	Baucus	Kerry	Collins	Cleland		
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Bayh	Kohl	Helms			
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Landrieu	Smith, Bob (I)			
Bond	Kyl	Bingaman	Lautenberg	Snowe			
Brownback	Lott	Boxer	Leahy	Thurmond			
Burns	Lugar	Breaux	Levin				
Campbell	Mack	Bryan	Lieberman				
Cochran	McConnell	Conrad	Lincoln				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Daschle	Mikulski				
Craig	Nickles	Dodd	Moynihan				
Crapo	Roberts	Dorgan	Murray				
DeWine	Roth	Durbin	Reed				
Domenici	Santorum	Edwards	Reid				
Enzi	Sessions	Feingold	Robb				
Fitzgerald	Shelby	Feinstein	Rockefeller				
Frist	Smith, Gordon	Graham	Sarbanes				
Gorton	Specter	Harkin	Schumer				
Gramm	Stevens	Hollings	Torricelli				
Grams	Thomas	Inouye	Wellstone				
Grassley	Thompson	Johnson	Wyden				
Gregg	Voinovich	Kennedy					
Hagel	Warner						
Hatch							

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

containing four major provisions: the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement Act; the African Growth and Opportunity Act; the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) reauthorization, and the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) reauthorization. The first provision will restore the margin of duty preference to Caribbean producers as it existed under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) before the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was implemented. The second provision, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, will increase the preferential tariff treatment for sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, will allow quota-free access for apparel using U.S. fabric in eligible SSA countries, will create a United States-SSA Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, and will provide a directive for the President to begin plans for implementing a United States-SSA free trade area. There is no region in the world that has suffered more from the ravages of war, disease, hunger, and simple want than sub-Saharan Africa. This bill will provide an opportunity for massive improvements and growth in this very deprived area by giving Africans the opportunity to guide their own economic destiny. The third provision will renew the Generalized System of Preferences, thereby allowing the President to provide duty-free treatment to imports of eligible articles from designated beneficiary developing countries. There are few ways by which we can better assist developing nations than by helping them quickly realize economic freedom. The fourth part of the managers' amendment is a reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs. Those programs provide assistance to workers and firms adversely impacted by import competition.

Some of our colleagues have compared this bill to NAFTA, claiming that NAFTA's "harms" will be repeated by the implementation of this bill. First, they contend NAFTA is responsible for increased illegal immigration, but they fail to recognize that the increase in immigration is not from Mexico; it is from Central America and the Caribbean. This managers' amendment will help to decrease illegal immigration by strengthening the economies of the countries in those regions, providing more job opportunities and fewer incentives to emigrate to the United States. Second, opponents of this bill believe that it will negatively impact the U.S. economy, as they erroneously believe that NAFTA did. However, since NAFTA has passed, the United States' economy and the total number of jobs have been growing rapidly. Our colleagues have specifically contended that this bill will cost thousands of American jobs and millions of dollars in the textile industry, but the American Textile Manufacturers Institute (ATMI) estimates that this bill will increase jobs by 121,000 and that sales will increase by \$8.8 billion over 5 years.

With this bill we are assisting nations that are just beginning to develop economically. We are declaring that economic hope is essential to peace and political stability. This work partnership will benefit both the people of the developing countries by providing better economies and the people of the United States by allowing more consumer-friendly prices and broadening the market for American exports. This bill will encourage continuing competition well into the future which ultimately will mean that a broader range of high-quality goods will be available to consumers at lower prices. Senators who vote against cloture will be opposing a bill that will benefit the American economy and will benefit numerous countries that are just beginning to truly develop. We urge our colleagues to vote for cloture on the motion to proceed.

While favoring the motion to invoke cloture, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

In 1993 Congress passed and the President signed NAFTA. That trade agreement was supposed to create great prosperity for the United States by increasing trade with Canada and Mexico, but it has caused many problems instead. We have lost 420,000 textile jobs since NAFTA was signed, illegal immigration has increased, and the amount of drugs making their way into the country from the south has skyrocketed. The terms of this trade bill are even worse than the terms agreed to in NAFTA. This bill will virtually ignore labor and environmental concerns in its rush to export jobs from America to countries where greedy multinational firms will be able to exploit workers and pollute the environment. As happened in Mexico with NAFTA, apparel manufacturers will move to African, Caribbean, and Central American countries as soon as the trade barriers are removed. Thousands of American jobs will be lost in the process. If the NAFTA experience with Mexico is any guide, the workers in those foreign countries will not benefit; their already low wages will fall even lower, they will work in unsafe conditions, and they will have their basic labor rights, such as the right to form unions, denied. We should not even be considering this bill. We have many more important issues to handle, such as the minimum wage, health maintenance organization (HMO) reform, and campaign finance reform. By this point in the session, we ought to be considering only the most urgent issues. With these concerns voiced, we will vote for cloture to move along the process.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the motion to invoke cloture.